Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
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NASA Wallops Flight Facility's Newest Retirees

The following individuals have retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility:

William B. (Bill) Bott retired effective December 31, 2006. Bott began his career at NASA Wallops Flight Facility on July 21, 1986, and retired as the team lead for the Wallops Environmental Office.

Bill Bott *Photo by Lee Wingfield*

Ralph L. Selby, III retired effective January 3, 2007, with over 31 years of government service. Selby retired as an electronics technician in the Wallops Electrical Engineering Branch providing support to the Wallops Test Range, Ground Network and Balloon Program Office.

William F. (Frank) Lau, Jr. retired effective January 3, 2007, with 39 years, 10 months of government service. Lau retired as the operations manager in the Sounding Rockets Program Office.

Frank Lau *Photo by Justin Senter*

David W. Hancock, III retired effective January 3, 2007, with 41 years of government service. Hancock was a computer scientist in NASA Wallops Flight Facility's Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences Laboratory.

NASA Photo

Lana M. Budd retired effective January 3, 2007. Budd retired as an aerospace technician in the Materials Test Lab, Mechanical Systems Branch with 35 years of government service at NASA Wallops Flight Facility.

William H. (Nut) Lankford retired effective January 5, 2007, with 31 years of service to NASA Wallops Flight Facility. At his retirement, he was the lead tractor-trailer driver for EG&G on the Wallops Institutional Consolidated Contract (WICC).

Wallops Shorts.....

Three NASA scientific balloons were launched from Williams Field, McMurdo Station, Antarctica, during December.

On December 15, a balloon carrying the Antarctic Impulse Transient Array (ANITA) instrument was launched. Dr. Peter Gorham of the University of Hawaii is the principal investigator. The balloon is still at float.

On December 21, a 39.57 million cubic foot balloon was launched carrying the Balloon-borne Large Aperture Submillimeter Telescope (BLAST). The principal investigator is Dr. Mark Devlin, University of Pennsylvania. The total flight time was 11 days, 23 hours, 12 minutes.

On December 24, the third balloon was launched carrying the Solor Bolometric Imager. Dr. David Rust, Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory, was the principal investigator. Total flight time was 5 hours, 23 minutes

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. 1929 - 1968

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings.

Preventing Outdoor Same-Level Slips, Trips and Falls

While environmental conditions increase the risk of injury from same-level slips, trips, and falls, we can reduce the risk through heightened awareness designed to eliminate hazards.

A trip most often results in the person falling forward, while a slip usually results in a backward fall. Most state, local and federal code standards describe changes in a level of ¼ inch or more in the course of travel as a potential trip hazard. These conditions commonly cause the majority of same-level slips, trips and falls in outdoor environments:

* Surface rain, sleet, accumulation of ice and snow resulting in slippery surfaces or poor traction on walking surfaces

* Cracks and holes in sidewalks and parking lots

* Raised areas due to tree roots, settling, cold weather (frozen areas) or damage resulting from ordinary wear-and-tear

* Loose or misplaced parking lot wheel stoppers

Other challenges/considerations:

* Inadequate lighting may lead to accidents involving falls in parking areas.

* Color contrast and visible warnings – "Safety yellow" is a color standardized for warning in a pedestrian highway environment. Visible warnings may be required in some areas.

* Plowing, shoveling, de-icing, salting or the uses of ice melting chemicals are ways of removing ice and snow. When practical, pre-apply de-icing chemicals before a storm, followed by snow/ice removal during and after the storm;

* Rock salt (sodium chloride) is the least expensive de-icing agent, but it is somewhat corrosive.

* Calcium chloride and magnesium chloride are more effective than rock salt. Calcium magnesium acetate is the most environmentally friendly of the de-icing agents.

* When possible, check walking surfaces regularly.

* State, local and national codes specify guidelines for ramps and handicap ramp design.

If you observe potentially hazardous conditions contact your facility operations manager (FOM) and/or report unsafe conditions to the Wallops Help Desk, x2466.

It's Been a Mild Start to Winter by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

The weather during December 2006 was very spring like. With a reading of 70 degrees, December 1 was the warmest day of the month. A reading of 19 degrees on the morning of December 9 was the coldest. We averaged a monthly temperature of 44.8 degrees during December. This is 4.3 degrees above normal. We saw 24 days with highs 50 degrees or greater and only 9 nights with lows at or below freezing.

Although it's normal to have nine days with measurable rain fell in December, we had rain fall on eight days for a total of 2.96 inches. This is 0.28 inches below our December average of 3.24 inches. The greatest total in a 24 hour period, 1.75 inches, fell December 25 and 26.

Winds attained speeds of 30 mph or greater on six days during December with the strongest winds of 43 mph recorded at 11:52 p.m. on the night of the December 7.

The heart of winter is just ahead with the coming of February. We can expect daytime highs to be near 45 degrees at the start of the month then fall to near 40 degrees by mid month before warming to an average of 51 degrees by the end of February. Overnight lows average 28 degrees at the start of February and only rise slightly to the freezing mark by the end of the month. The highest temperature recorded at Wallops in February is 79 degrees and occurred on February 1, 2002, and on February 27 in 1997. The coldest temperature on record for the month is -4 degrees on February 2, 1971. Measurable rain normally totals 3.02 inches for February falling on nine days. February averages 3.03 inches of snow, with normally two days with measurable snow.

Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, January 10, 2007
Building E-2, Williamsburg Room
Time: Noon - 1 p.m.

American Red Cross representative Amy Calhoun will present a lunch and learn. She will discuss the purpose of the American Red Cross and explain how the donated blood is distributed.

She also will explain differences between the American Red Cross and a membership blood bank.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 24
Building F-3, Rocket Club
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, visit: http://www.givelife.org. Code for donors is Wallops.

For any further questions, call the Health Unit at x1266.

Sympathy Extended

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Louie Hancock who died early Monday morning, January 8. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, January 11, at Salyer's Funeral Home, Chincoteague.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 12, at the Island Baptist Church, Chincoteague.

Hancock retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility after working for several years in the Wallops Photo Lab.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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